

ITEM: 9

SUBJECT: City of Jackson WWTP, Amador County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal.*

BACKGROUND: The City of Jackson (Discharger) owns and operates a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and serves a population of about 4,000 with about 1,650 connections. The current residential sewer rate is \$27.00 per month. The treatment system consists of a mechanical screen and spiral augur with a washer compactor for screenings, two oxidation ditches, (only one is used at a time), two secondary clarifiers (only one is used during the summer, both are used during the winter months), chlorine injection, one train of four single media sand filters, a chlorine contact basin, and dechlorination. Solids are directed to an aerated holding tank for digestion, and then directed to a belt filter press. Solids are hauled off-site to a landfill for disposal. Wastewater is discharged from Discharge Point No. 001 to Jackson Creek, a water of the United States, and a tributary to Lake Amador within the Mokelumne River watershed.

In addition to discharging to the receiving water, the Discharger is continuing to investigate potential land disposal and/or distribution of reclaimed water for irrigation.

U.S. EPA has classified this discharge as a minor discharge. The proposed NPDES permit renewal continues to allow the existing regulated discharge of 0.71 mgd to Jackson Creek. The permit also proposes a significant number of new and more stringent effluent limitations. New effluent limitations are proposed for aluminum; copper; cyanide; diazinon; dichlorobromomethane; 2,6-dinitrotoluene; 1,2-diphenylhydrazine; electrical conductivity; iron, manganese; pH; settleable solids; tetrachloroethene; and zinc. In addition, the proposed permit includes a new effluent mass limitation for mercury, and a new "fixed" ammonia concentration to replace the existing "floating" ammonia limitations.

The proposed permit addresses the California Department of Public Health concerns regarding downstream Lake Amador domestic water uses and the agency's recommendation for tertiary treatment plus 20:1 dilution of the WWTP effluent in Lake Amador. The permit proposes a prohibition of discharge to Jackson Creek when dilution does not provide a 20:1 flow ratio in the downstream Lake Amador. A 5-year time schedule is proposed for compliance with this prohibition. The permit also proposes that the Discharger conduct a Jackson Creek Beneficial Use Attainment Study to assess the in-stream flow necessary to sustain aquatic life beneficial uses and existing downstream water rights. Compliance schedules and corresponding interim effluent limitations are additionally included in the permit for new and more stringent effluent limitations in which the Discharger is unable to immediately comply.

The City of Jackson (Discharger), the Central Valley Clean Water

Association (CVCWA), East Bay Municipal Utility District, Nolte Associates on behalf of New Faze Development, and the California Department of Public Health submitted comments on the tentative permit. Responses to these comments are included in the Regional Water Board staff's Response to Comments.

ISSUES: Significant issues are discussed in the Staff Report and include:

- Lake Amador water-to-treated effluent dilution to protect downstream municipal and domestic beneficial uses
- Maintenance of in stream flows in Jackson Creek to support aquatic life uses
- Alternatives to surface water discharge to Jackson Creek

Mgmt. Review _____

Legal Review _____

25/26 October 2007

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